



ANNEX 2 – ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Part A

Project draft assessment procedure under public call SK-PL 2018

1. The office of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as “Agency” or “SRDA”) through the Application committee appointed by the director of the Agency shall assess the submitted applications for fulfilment of technical and formal conditions (hereinafter referred to as “technical conditions”) stated in the public call and, if the application does not meet the technical requirements, the applicant is called by the SRDA to remedy the deficiencies within 14 days of receiving request for their removal.
2. If no deficiencies of the Application remedied under paragraph 1, the SRDA shall decide to exclude the Application for failure to comply with the technical conditions, and shall notify the applicant of the decision on excluding the Application. The decision on excluding the Application contains specific reasons for the Application’s non-compliance with the technical terms.
3. Council of the Agency shall appoint one of its members to be a rapporteur for each evaluated Application.
4. Council of the Agency shall provide two independent reviews prepared by experts in the given field for each Application complying with the technical requirements. The reviews are the basis for the application assessment by the council of the Agency. An Application may only be reviewed by domestic reviewers solely for the reasons of copyright protection of the protected planned outputs (e.g. patents) in a competitive environment, namely if stated so by the applicant in the accompanying letter to the Application.
5. Assessing the project quality is the basic principle for assessing the Application for project funding.
6. Application assessment shall be done based on the assessment criteria set.
7. The maximum number of points for the application assessment from one reviewer is 100, at least 0. The reviewer shall individually and duly justify the assigned points for each criterion. In addition, in the conclusion the reviewer shall identify an overall project assessment, which is in line with the point - based project assessment.
8. The average point score shall be calculated from the assessment score points by the independent reviewers, rounded to one decimal place. The average score calculated so is considered as the average rating of the reviewers.
9. Based on the project proposals assessment, the Council of the Agency may adjust downward or upward the average point score of two project reviewers by a value of between -5 and +5 points (that is -5% to +5% of the maximum possible number of points). This fact shall be recorded and justified in the assessment report.
10. Council of the Agency shall prepare ranking of the projects according to the final number of points obtained, and identify the projects recommended for funding.
11. The minimum threshold for selection of the projects for funding is 75 points.
12. Subsequently, an international assessment shall be carried out by a joint committee.
13. The assessment of the joint committee is organised by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic within the terms agreed with the partner party. Rules for selecting the projects in the International joint committee are as follows:

- Projects not submitted or unrated on both sides will be excluded due to non-compliance with the terms of the call,
- Two-sided highly rated projects at national levels will benefit against the projects that are assessed differently,
- Differences in the project assessment on both sides will be addressed in discussion, taking mutual interest into the account.

Final number of the projects selected to be supported by the joint committee depends on the amount of funds allocated to the call in both the participating countries.

14. After completion of the assessment process, i.e. following an assessment of the joint committee that has agreed a list of the projects recommended for funding, the Agency shall notify the applicants of the decision on their Applications. The annex to the decision comprises an assessment report and information on the reviews.

Part B
Project Assessment Criteria

- 1. Timeliness and scientific nature of the objectives and originality of the research intent (0 – 20)**
 - Assess the degree of topicality of the problem solved in the given field of science and technology
 - Evaluate the scientific level of the research intent from the point of the objectives set
 - Assess to what extent the objectives of the research intent are clearly defined and realistically achievable
 - Assess the degree of originality of the research intent

- 2. Timetable of solving the research intent and relevance of the activities with regard to the character of the call (0 – 10)**
 - Evaluate the realisation of the research intent in terms of timetable and the objectives set
 - Assess the justification of the activities with regard to the character of the call
 - Assess the suitability of the timing of mobility activities in the individual stages of the project solution

- 3. Significance and justification of the international bilateral co-operation in solving the research intent (0 – 25)**
 - Evaluate the necessity for international bilateral co-operation for solving the research intent
 - Assess the justification of a foreign partner's participation in the research project
 - Assess the effectiveness of the bilateral planned mobility activities

- 4. Benefits of the international bilateral co-operation and research intent (0 – 25)**
 - Assess the expected social or economic benefits of the international bilateral cooperation for the Slovak Republic
 - Assess to what extent the international bilateral cooperation contributes to the expected benefits
 - Assess the fulfilment of the objectives of the call

- 5. Professional qualifications of the principal investigator and the Slovak research team with regard to the involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff (0 – 20)**
 - Assess the quality of scientific outputs of the principal investigator and professional quality of the research team
 - Evaluate the share of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff in the project solving

In criterion 5, the reviewers and the council shall consider the time (in the case of women - maternity leave) of active professional life of the principal investigator and members of the team.